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tions. He still feels too young, however, to give up all of his directorships, and will take light exercise by running a big coal and coke company.

The death of William Slater Lewis, eighty-six years old, who since the time of Abraham Lincoln had been a trusted employee in the White House, where he had been well acquainted with twelve Presidents of the United States, removes one of the unique and interesting characters of the Capital.

COMMON SENSE AND THE TRANSFER ISSUE.

Corporation Counsel Thomas talks like a lawyer, and also like a man of sense, in regard to this universal transfer question. Similar instances have been recorded before.

Mr. Thomas will probably intervene in the transfer litigation between the Baltimore and Washington and the Capital Traction companies. Here is what he told the House District Committee last year:

Can it be foretold that the (universal transfer) legislation is destructive or confiscatory until after the operation of the universal transfer system for a reasonable time?

From which anybody can see that Mr. Thomas has read the views of the Supreme Court in the Consolidated Gas case.

In that case the master in chancery held that the 80-cent gas rate in New York City would produce, on the basis of existing business and conditions, a fraction over 6 per cent return on the Consolidated Gas stock. The court had held that 8 per cent was a reasonable rate.

So the gas company was sure of winning. But it didn't. The Supreme Court acted like a plain, sensible citizen. In effect it said:

"We want this company to get its 8 per cent. If this calculation is right it will not get that much. But we want it to be able to pay the 8 per cent. The business will be larger at the lower rates; maybe the company will employ better methods and save more. Anyway, it will be time to talk about confiscation after something is shown by experience to be in the way of confiscation."

Seems almost too simple and understandable for a Supreme Court to say, doesn't it? But that was the substance of the great Consolidated Gas decision which gave New York 80-cent gas.

What happened? The 80-cent rate went into effect at once. The gas company paid back to consumers several millions that they had been overcharged during the period of litigation. Then it got down to the business of making profits at 80 cents.

Did it go broke? Did its property fall into bad repair? Did the bondholders grab it for failure to pay interest?

Not noticeably. The company made so much money in the first year under the new rate that instead of earning a trifling over 6 per cent it earned near 9, and paid the dividend just as usual, and had a neat surplus besides. Every year since it has done still better.

Think of that when you read that General Harries and Mr. Normant and Treasurer Ham, and the rest of our street car managers are losing sleep for fear we will take their cars away from them with this universal transfer business.

The truth is that we are setting up a malicious job to compel these gentlemen to earn some additional profits for themselves and their stockholders. That's all there is to it.

Messrs. Harries, Normant, et al. are nice gentlemen; but they don't care for money. They have higher, more inspiring, more ethereal and elevating ambitions than the sordid purpose of money-grubbing.

Not for them to make a lot more money. They don't need it. Universal transfers would serve them just as it did the Consolidated Gas: It would make more business and more profits.

Feeling mighty kindly toward these pleasant gentlemen, appreciating their peculiarly lofty motives and aspirations, we feel that their dislike of mere money-getting ought not to be permitted to become a weakness. It might be bad for them in their old age, when they may need the coin.

On the whole, if they are unwilling to take the money that wants to come their way, why not force them to take it?

Why not just compel them to increase profits and dividends, just as the Consolidated did, by being liberal with the public?

Corporation Counsel Thomas seems to have the idea. Go to it, Mr. Thomas. Make 'em take the money!

ANOTHER STATE LINING UP FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY.

While reactionaries are standing around railing at the popular government movement, that movement keeps marching on at a pace that reactionism cannot overtake. Evidence of the spread of the demand for popular government is constantly coming forward. The latest indication of it is seen in Iowa, where the sentiment for a Presidential primary is strong and where it is probable such a primary will be arranged. The legislature will not meet before the Presidential campaign, and consequently the demand is made that the Republican State committee, following the example of some other States, provide for the necessary machinery to enable the voters to express their preference as to a Presidential nominee.

Senator Cummins, who is opposed to President Taft, and Senator Kenyon, who is for the President, have both

come out for the Presidential primary. The movement in Iowa has taken on such proportions that it probably cannot be resisted successfully. If the Republicans arrange such a primary the Democrats cannot well avoid one.

Five States have legalized the Presidential primary, State committees will provide for it in a number of the Southern States, and the movement is getting such a hold in North and West that it will inevitably have a profound effect on the next Republican and Democratic conventions.

If there is the anti-Taft sentiment which the progressive Republicans of the country allege, that sentiment will develop itself at these primaries. If President Taft is gaining strength at the rate his political lieutenants insist he is, that also will develop. If the progressive wing of the Democratic party is as distrustful of Judson Harmon because it thinks him marked with the corporation brand, as is freely alleged, that fact will be made known, and if Woodrow Wilson or Champ Clark stands first in the affections of the Democratic voters that fact will likewise be made known.

Not a single sound argument can be advanced against the Presidential primary, against allowing the people of the country to say who they want nominated for the White House. But the spread of this idea is striking blows at Federal and State political machines that are bound to crush them and leave them fit only for the scrap heap of history. What is more remarkable is the fact that in the Presidential campaign of three years ago the Presidential primary scarcely got serious mention. Progressivism is making progress.

Dr. Davidson To Open School With Program

Hereafter Dr. Davidson, superintendent of schools, will make an effort to have all new buildings dedicated with appropriate exercises before they are used.

This announcement was made today, when the new building at Eighth and T streets is nearly ready for occupancy. On making inquiry regarding the custom here in opening new schools, Dr. Davidson found that in recent cases dedicatory exercises have been neglected. The J. W. Eaton school, for instance, had appropriate opening exercises, but the new Thompson was opened without ceremony.

"I believe the opening of a school gives an opportunity for drawing parents to the school which we cannot afford to miss," said Dr. Davidson. "It is in my power, any new school opened here during my administration will be made the occasion for a program and an invitation to the public to attend."

The new building at Eighth and T streets is a handsome twelve-story structure, with an assembly hall, and is highly praised by Dr. Davidson, who went through it a few days ago. It is expected to be ready for occupancy within a week. It will first have to be accepted by the Board of Education.

Scottish Rite Masons To Get High Degree

With the conferring of the thirty-second degree, the highest regular degree that can be taken by a Scottish Rite Mason, the fall reunion of the Scottish Rite Masons of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States will close tonight.

Stirling Kerr, Jr., recently appointed secretary-general of the supreme council, will have charge of the ceremonies. The exercises will be held at the House of the Temple, 433 Third street northwest.

The degrees from the twentieth to the twenty-ninth were conferred on a large class at the temple last night. Sovereign Grand Commander Richard C. Grebe, thirty-second degree of Oriental Consistory, No. 1, of Yankton, S. D.; Charles H. Wilcox, thirty-second degree of Beulah, S. D.; and Charles C. M. Loefer, thirty-second degree of Indian Consistory, No. 2, McAlester, Okla.

Southern Begins An Advertising Campaign

The most extensive advertising campaign ever undertaken by a railroad company has been mapped out by the Southern, with a view of bringing to the attention of the entire world the natural resources of the Southeastern section of the United States.

From the headquarters of the company in Washington, this morning, a detailed description of the plans was issued. Something like 150 American newspapers and periodicals, and a number of European papers, which circulate in England, Scotland, Holland, Germany, and France, are to be used in conducting the advertising campaign.

The unexcelled openings for diversified farming, stock raising, orchards, and other profitable enterprises, and the profitable investment of capital in various lines of industry, will be pointed out.

What's on the Program in Washington Today

Meeting of Jasper Council, No. 23, Jr. O. U. A. M., Fifth and G streets northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Edward J. Ross Council, No. 24, Jr. O. U. A. M., Seventh and D streets northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Columbia Council, No. 22, Jr. O. U. A. M., 220 Twentieth street northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Constellation Council, No. 25, Jr. O. U. A. M., 413 Third street northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Logan Tribe, No. 8, I. O. E. M., Wisconsin avenue and N street northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Camp No. 4, Patriotic Order Sons of America, 22 Louisiana avenue northwest, 8 p. m.
Polhemus Association smoker, Pythian Temple, 1013 Ninth street northwest, 8 p. m.

Amusements

National-Theatricals Company, 8:15 p. m.
Columbia-Theatricals Company, 8:15 p. m.
Chase-Amelia Bingham and other popular vaudeville, 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.
Carnegie-Harden and other vaudeville. Cosmos-Continous vaudeville, 1 to 11 p. m.
Academy-Theatricals, 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.
Majestic-Two Orphans' afternoon and evening.
Lyceum-Kentucky Belle, 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.
Gayety-Star and Garter Show, 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.

Julia Murdock Says H. Mankicki, Manager of Japanese Troupe At Chase's, Proves Nation Has Sense of Humor

Oriental Even Have Their Own Mother-in-Law Joke, Old As Hills.

ACTORS LEARN ART OF PANTOMIMICRY

Children Quote The Rhymes Of The Nation's Principal Funny Writer.

There is a tradition among Americans that the Japanese lack a sense of humor. They give these little "brown brothers" of ours credit for a great deal of cleverness, a great deal of patience, a great many other things that Americans lack, but humor? No.

It was one were to talk for just a moment with H. Mankicki, who is appearing this week at Chase's Theater, and who is billed as "the only Japanese humorist who ever visited America," one would alter this opinion in quick order. This young man, who is manager as well as premiere performer with the Imperial Satsuma troupe of Japanese gymnasts, says that the Japanese are the most humorous people in America.

The humor of the nation is as old as its snow-crowned mountains, Fujiyama. Why, they even have a mother-in-law joke that has been old since the memory of the oldest grandfathers in the "land of cherry blossoms." Mr. Mankicki refused to tell it to me yesterday afternoon when I sat in his dressing room and he chatted with me in good United States English, of which he is master.

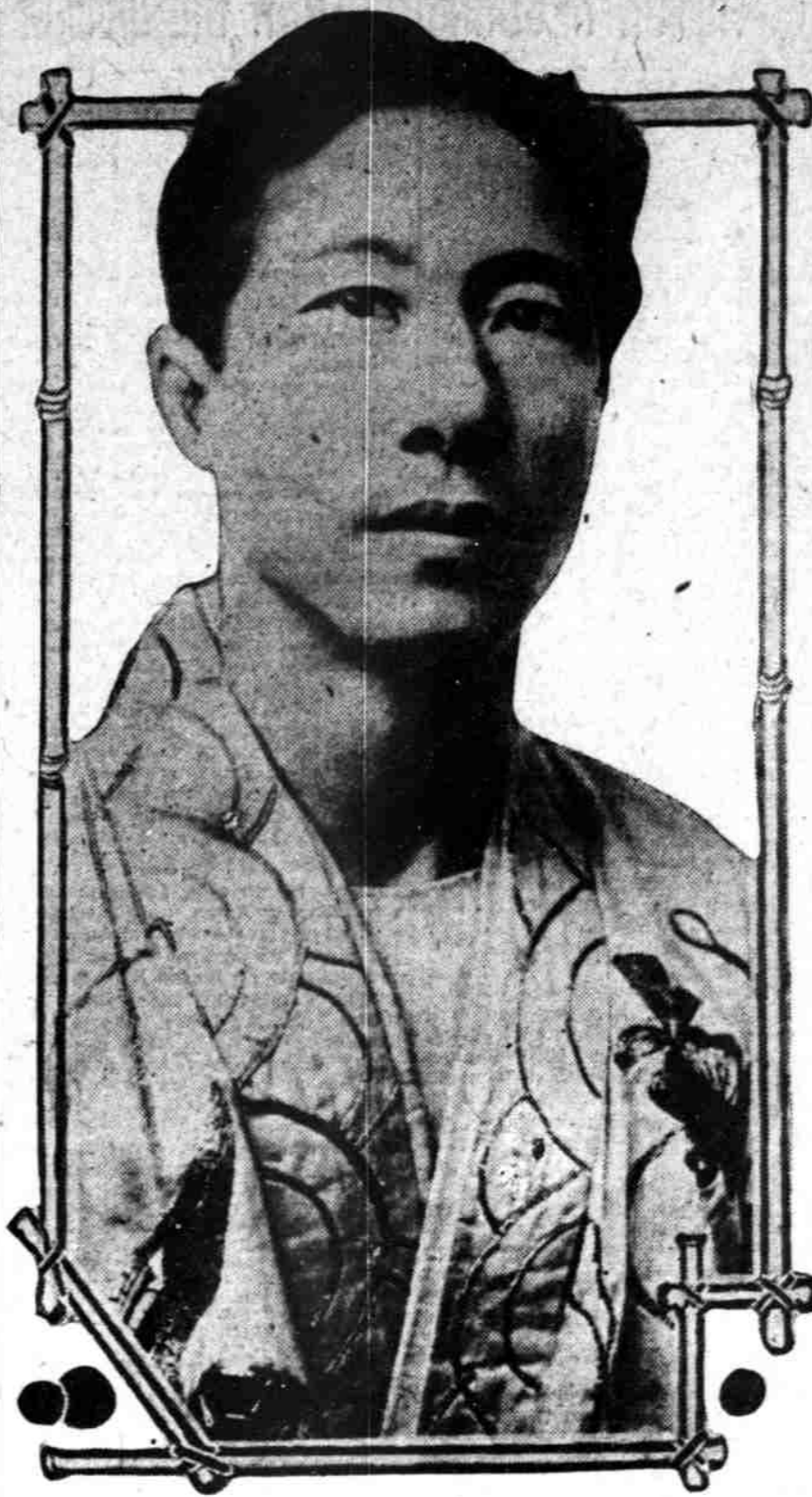
"I'm not married myself," he explained, "and therefore am not qualified to speak of the mother-in-law except in a purely theoretical manner." But he did tell me some jokes, and he told me a great deal about the literature of the "land of the chrysanthemum." Japan's chief humorist bears the name of Eochikawa, Danfuro.

Everybody in Japan is familiar with this author's writings. The little Japanese children quote his rhymes as they recite "The Purple Cow" or the "Goop Book" jingles. He is a playwright as well. His chief work in the dramatic line is a play known by the unpronounceable name of "Chinglingura," and its humor lies not only in the spoken words, but in the gestures and contortions which the actors are called upon to use as well.

Actors Are Trained In Pantomimic Humor

More true of Japan than of any other country in the world are the words of the little song, "Every Little Movement Has a Meaning of Its Own." Japanese actors and acrobats are trained to be humorous with their bodies as well as their minds and tongues. Without speaking a word, Mr. Mankicki can be funnier than any monologue artist I have ever heard.

Those same toes, by the way, are insured for \$5,000 each, so if Mr. Mankicki ever loses a foot he will receive \$5,000 in return. The funny poses of these feet, while toying with a huge Japanese umbrella, which the actor holds over his head, is entirely hand-embroidered on lavender satin. Many who have witnessed their performance this week are under the impression that



K. MANKICKI

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Gymnasts Are In Week's Bill Of Fine Contrast In Excellence.

MISS BINGHAM IN DRAMATIC EXCERPTS

Musical Tricks, Parisian Dances, And Monologue Add To Entertainment.

the beautiful cherry orchard scene in this week of the scene painter, but I was permitted to examine it closely yesterday, and every cherry blossom petal, every branch, every flowering shrub is done in needlework, put in by hand with the finest silk.

Boys and girls in Japan, Mr. Mankicki told me, are placed at the embroidery frame at three and four years of age, and by the time they have become six or seven years old they enter the ranks of professionals, doing the beautiful work that is seen on the rare Japanese embroidery that is brought to this country from the land of Nippon.

Miss Bingham Gives Fine Dramatic Scenes

Other acts on Chase's bill this week are well worth considering. Aside from Miss Amelia Bingham's most original and finished production which she has named "Big Moments from Great Plays," and in which she gives the most dramatic scenes from "A Modern Lady Godiva," "La Tosca," and "Madame Sans Gene," there are any number of novel acts.

Williams and Warner do some marvelous musical tricks, one of the funniest being a selection given on the "Water-melodion." This instrument of one string only, is evolved from a broomstick with a watermelon for its body. From this absurd instrument the artist manages to coax "Love Me and the World is Mine," and other popular tunes. They have a queer little box-like instrument which they have named the "Clacophone," their own invention. Their act is a novel one and pleases the audiences.

Roberta's dancers from Paris give a whirlwind dance that is delightfully Parisian without being in any way suggestive. Stuart Barnes, who is called "Broadway's best dancer," gives an imitation of a young man courting his best girl which keeps the younger portion of his audience, many of whom seem to have been there themselves, on the verge of hysterics for many minutes. He has a matrimonial monologue wherein he holds up the mirror to married men and women, and illustrates their follies in a manner so true to life that some of the men and women who hear him make a mental vow on the spot that they will go home and turn over a new leaf.

The excellent bill closes with a reel of motion pictures, showing the various events of the world week by week. The entire bill is of the highest quality.

JULIA MURDOCK.

TIMELY LETTERS TO THE TIMES MAIL BAG

Readers of The Times are invited to use this department as their own—to write freely and frankly with the assurance that no letter not objectionable in language will be denied publication. Letters must not, however, exceed 200 words in length, and must be written only on one side of the paper. Letters must bear the names and addresses of the writers, as evidence of good faith, but the names will not be made public without the consent of the contributors. Address MAIL BAG EDITOR OF THE TIMES.